loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- and C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy, [(xii)] (xiv) phenyl C_1-C_6 alkyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted as defined above, [(xiii)] (xv) di-C_1-C_6 alkylamino C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(xiv)] (xvi) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (xvii) benzyl-O-, (xviii) benzyl-S- and [(xv)] (xix) C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

R_3 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

R_4 is phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from
(i) halo, (ii) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (iii) hydroxy, (iv) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (v) benzyl-O-, (vi) benzyl-S- and [(v)] (vii) thioalkoxy;

R_5 is hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_6 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

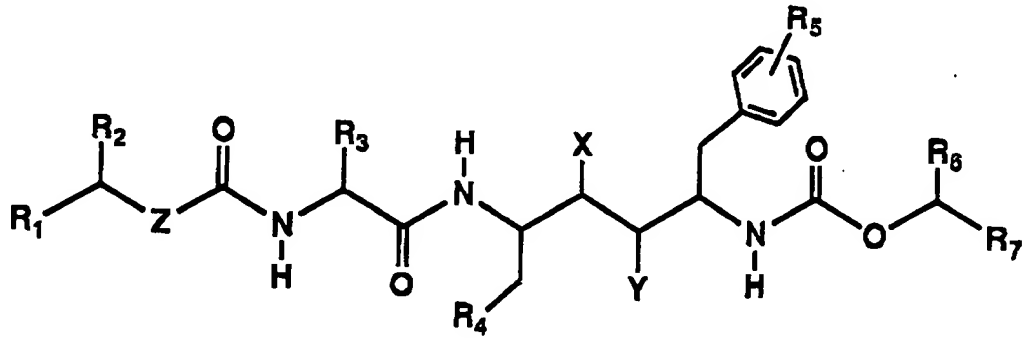
R_7 is thiazolyl or oxazolyl wherein the thiazolyl or oxazolyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

X is hydrogen and Y is -OH or X is -OH and Y is hydrogen, with the proviso that X is hydrogen and Y is -OH when Z is -N(R_8)- and R_7 is unsubstituted and with the proviso that X is hydrogen and Y is -OH when R_3 is methyl and R_7 is unsubstituted; and

Z is -O-, -S-, -CH_2- or -N(R_8)- wherein R_8 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.

2. (amended) The compound of Claim 1 wherein R_1 is monosubstituted thiazolyl or monosubstituted oxazolyl; R_2 and R_6 are hydrogen; and Z is O or -N(R_8)- wherein R_8 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl.

3. (twice amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R_1 is monosubstituted thiazolyl or monosubstituted oxazolyl wherein the substituent is selected from (i) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (ii) C_2-C_6 loweralkenyl, (iii) C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, (iv) C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl C_1-C_6 alkyl, (v) C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl, (vi) C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl C_1-C_6 alkyl, (vii) C_1-C_6 alkoxy C_1-C_6 alkyl, (viii) benzyl-O-C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(viii)] (ix) C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy C_1-C_6 alkyl, (x) benzyl-S-C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(ix)] (xi) C_1-C_6 alkylamino, [(x)] (xii) di-C_1-C_6 alkylamino, [(xi)] (xiii) phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from halo, C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- and C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy, [(xii)] (xiv) phenyl C_1-C_6 alkyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted as defined above, [(xiii)] (xv) di-C_1-C_6 alkylamino C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(xiv)] (xvi) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (xvii) benzyl-O-, (xviii) benzyl-S- and [(xv)] (xix) C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_2 is hydrogen;

R_3 is loweralkyl;

R_4 is phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from (i) halo, (ii) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (iii) hydroxy, (iv) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (v) benzyl-O-, (vi) benzyl-S- and [(v)] (vii) thioalkoxy;

R_5 is hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_6 is hydrogen;

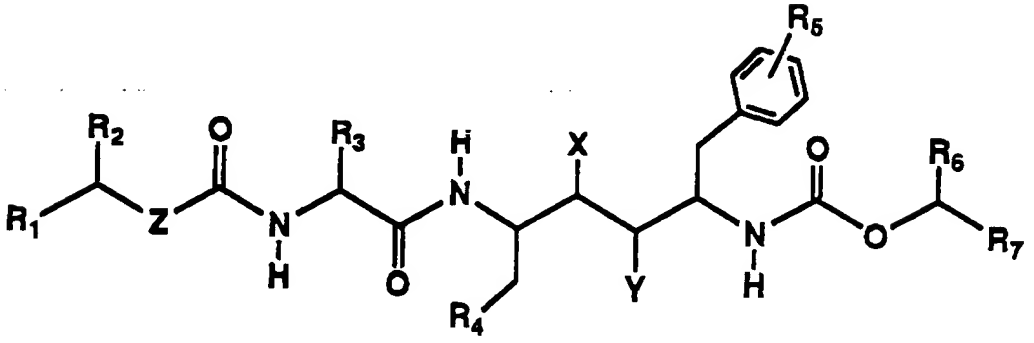
R_7 is thiazolyl or oxazolyl wherein the thiazolyl or oxazolyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

X is hydrogen and Y is -OH or X is -OH and Y is hydrogen; and

Z is -O- or -S-;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.

5. (twice amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R_1 is monosubstituted thiazolyl or monosubstituted oxazolyl wherein the substituent is selected from (i) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (ii) C_2-C_6 loweralkenyl, (iii) C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, (iv) C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl C_1-C_6 alkyl, (v) C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl, (vi) C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl C_1-C_6 alkyl, (vii) C_1-C_6 alkoxy C_1-C_6 alkyl, (viii) benzyl-O-C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(viii)] (ix) C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy C_1-C_6 alkyl, (x) benzyl-S-C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(ix)] (xi) C_1-C_6 alkylamino, [(x)] (xii) di-C_1-C_6 alkylamino, [(xi)] (xiii) phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from halo, C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- and C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy, [(xii)] (xiv) phenyl C_1-C_6 alkyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted as defined above, [(xiii)] (xv) di-C_1-C_6 alkylamino C_1-C_6 alkyl, [(xiv)] (xvi) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (xvii) benzyl-O-, (xviii) benzyl-S- and [(xv)] (xix) C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_2 is hydrogen;

R_3 is loweralkyl;

R_4 is phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from
(i) halo, (ii) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (iii) hydroxy, (iv) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (v) benzyl-O-, (vi) benzyl-S- and [(v)] (vii) thioalkoxy;

R_5 is hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_6 is hydrogen;

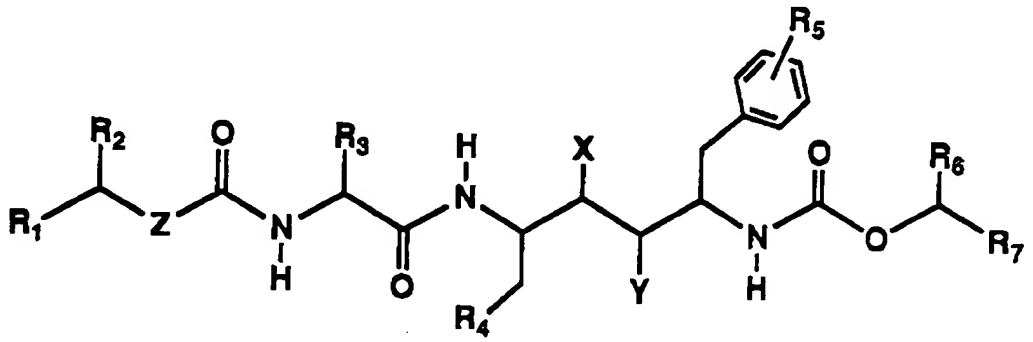
R_7 is thiazolyl or oxazolyl wherein the thiazolyl or oxazolyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

X is hydrogen and Y is -OH ;

Z is -N(R_8)- wherein R_8 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.

6. (amended) The compound of Claim 5 wherein R_1 is monosubstituted thiazolyl or monosubstituted oxazolyl; and R_8 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl.

7. (twice amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R_1 is monosubstituted thiazolyl or monosubstituted oxazolyl wherein the substituent is selected from (i) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (ii) C_2-C_6 loweralkenyl and (iii) C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl;

R_2 is hydrogen;

R_3 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

R_4 is phenyl wherein the phenyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with a substituent selected from
(i) halo, (ii) C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, (iii) hydroxy, (iv) C_1-C_6 alkoxy, (v) benzyl-O-, (vi) benzyl-S- and [(v)] (vii) thioalkoxy;

R_5 is hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_6 loweralkyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, benzyl-O-, benzyl-S- or C_1-C_6 thioalkoxy;

R_6 is hydrogen;

R_7 is thiazolyl or oxazolyl wherein the thiazolyl or oxazolyl ring is unsubstituted or substituted with C_1-C_6 loweralkyl;

X is hydrogen and Y is -OH ; and

Z is -N(R_8)- wherein R_8 is C_1-C_6 loweralkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.

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11. (twice amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((N-Methyl-N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl)-amino)carbonyl)alaninyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
(2S,3S,5S)-2-(N-(N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)valinyl)amino)-5-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)alaninyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((2-(N,N-Dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)-valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
(2S,3S,5S)-2-(N-(N-((2-(N,N-Dimethylamino)-4-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)-valinyl)amino)-5-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((N-Methyl-N-((2-isopropyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl)amino)-carbonyl)valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-oxazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane; and
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((N-Methyl-N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl)amino)-carbonyl)valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-oxazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;
[(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((N-Methyl-N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl)amino)-carbonyl)valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-isoxazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane; and
(2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((N-Methyl-N-((2-isopropyl-4-oxazolyl)methyl)amino)-carbonyl)valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-isoxazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane;] or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or prodrug thereof.

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Please add the following new claim:

- - 23. (2S,3S,5S)-5-(N-(N-((N-Methyl-N-((2-isopropyl-4-thiazolyl)methyl)-amino)carbonyl)valinyl)amino)-2-(N-((5-thiazolyl)methoxycarbonyl)amino)-1,6-diphenyl-3-hydroxyhexane; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. - -